

basket such that the slotted ~~retrieval basket~~ section is capable of expansion and contraction to capture and retrieve particles.

C2 Please cancel claims 2-6.

1) (7)(TWICE AMENDED) A medical instrument comprising at least one memory metal tube programmed for an effect selected from the group of effects consisting of memory effect and superelasticity and having in at least one section thereof a plurality of slots such that the slotted section is capable of expansion and contraction;

further comprising a delivery tube that surrounds at least the slotted section of the memory metal tube during delivery and which is partially removed from surrounding the slotted section of the memory metal tube by a relative longitudinal movement between the respective tubes;

[The instrument of claim 2] wherein said memory metal tube has a distal end and wherein the slots in the memory metal tube extend to the distal end of the tube and have been programmed to change into inwardly extending bending hooks to define an internal gripper upon delivery from the delivery tube.

Please cancel claims 9 and 20.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed July 12, 2000. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.